

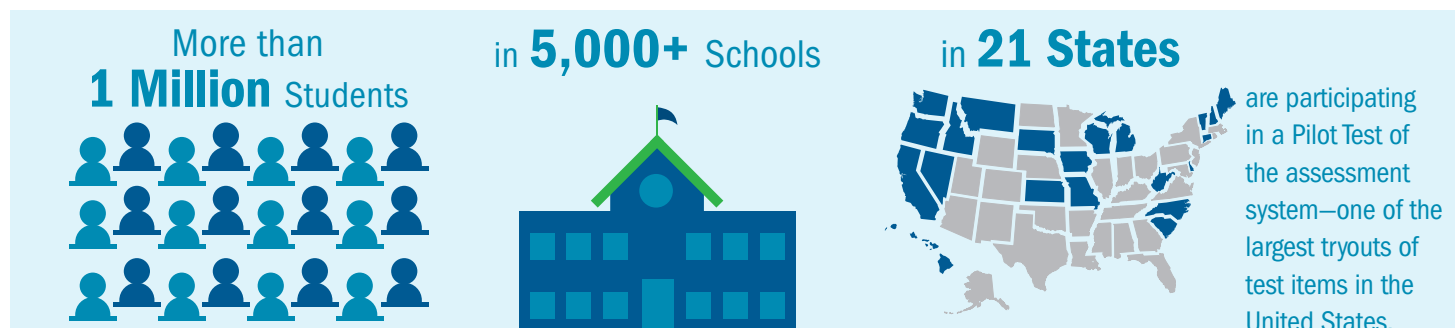
On Track and Moving Forward: The Smarter Balanced Assessment System

The state-led Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium is developing online, computer adaptive assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards. Designed to measure college- and career-ready knowledge and skills, the assessments challenge students to solve real-world problems, conduct research, and analyze information through classroom-based performance tasks. With faster, more accurate results, Smarter Balanced assessments will give parents, teachers, and policymakers better information and tools to support student success.

Smarter Balanced has met key milestones toward the on-time launch of the assessment system in the 2014-15 school year, including the launch of a Pilot Test involving more than one million students.

Learn more at SmarterBalanced.org and follow us on Twitter @SmarterBalanced.

Developing Next-Generation Assessments



- ▶ Practice tests will be publicly available online at SmarterBalanced.org beginning in late May 2013.
- ▶ Data from the Pilot Test will inform the development of a large-scale Field Test in spring 2014.

Technology Requirements Responsive to School Needs

- ▶ Technology requirements and bandwidth estimates now available for schools.
- ▶ Most existing hardware and operating systems are supported, as well as virtually all new computers and tablets.
- ▶ Pencil-and-paper option available for three-year transition period.



Educator Driven Resources and Professional Development Tools



In **2013** Smarter Balanced will work
with nearly **2,000 teachers**

to develop a digital library of
formative assessment and
professional development resources

- ▶ K-12 teachers and higher education faculty help develop test items and performance tasks.
- ▶ State higher education and K-12 leaders collaborated on a shared definition of college readiness to ensure that proficiency provides entry into entry-level, transferable, credit-bearing courses.

Accessible for All Students

- ▶ Assessments will include research-based accessibility features and accommodation options for students with disabilities and ELLs.
- ▶ Smarter Balanced developed a Translation Accommodations Framework, the Accommodations for ELLs and SWD: A Research-Based Decision Algorithm paper, and guidelines for identification of terms to be used in a glossary.
- ▶ During the Pilot Test, Smarter Balanced offered Spanish stacked translations, item-level customized Spanish pop-up glossaries, text-to-speech, Braille, and item-level customized English pop-up glossaries.
- ▶ For the practice test, schools will have access to a translation option, text-to-speech, Braille, and ASL.



Timeline

- **Fall/Winter 2011:** Content specifications developed to ensure assessments align with the Common Core State Standards
- **Spring 2012:** Technology Readiness Tool available to assist states with transition to online assessments
- **Spring/Summer 2012:** Teachers help write Pilot Test items and performance tasks, review for alignment with CCSS, and check for bias/sensitivity
- **Winter/Spring 2013:** Pilot Test of summative and interim assessment items and performance tasks
- **Spring/Summer 2013:** Teachers and contractors develop summative and interim assessment items and performance tasks
- **Summer/Fall 2013:** State Networks of Educators evaluate formative assessment practices and instructional resources; professional development cadres meet
- **Spring 2014:** Field Test of summative and interim assessment items and performance tasks
- **2014-15 School Year:** Implementation of assessment system and launch of digital library